

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim Amendments

The Official Action objected to claims 62-85 following claims 58-60, stating that new claims must be numbered consecutively beginning with the number next following the previous numbered claim. The Official Action thus asserts that claims 62-85, as introduced in the amendment filed December 1, 2008, are misnumbered, and has therefore renumbered claims 62-85 as 61-84.

In response, the renumbering claims 62-85 as 61-84 so that all the claims are numbered consecutively is acknowledged, and appears thus in the listing of the claims presently presented in this response.

With the renumbering of the claims, it is understood that the objection to the claims is withdrawn.

References to the claims throughout the remainder of are in accordance to the revised numbering.

The Official Action objected to claims 71-75, 78-81 and 83-84 due to typographical errors.

In reply, claims 71-75, 78-81 and 83-84 are amended responsive to the Official Action's suggestions.

Entry of the amendments, and withdrawal of the objections to the claims, is thereby respectfully requested.

In addition to the above, claim 58 is amended to more clearly recite the fixed antennae as associated with the receiver modules in lines 6-9 of the claim consistent with that recited in lines 10-14, and the term coupled is revised as connected to more clearly distinguish from the electromagnetic coupling recited elsewhere in the claim.

The amendment to claim 58 is non-substantive and not believed to affect the scope of the claim, and further does not introduce new matter. It is also respectfully submitted that the amendment places claim 58 in better form for consideration on appeal. Entry of the amendment is thereby earnestly solicited.

Rejections under Section 102

The Official Action rejected claims 58-71, 76-77 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Lin et al. (US Pub. 2002/0057208; "LIN"). The rejection is respectfully traversed at least for the following reasons.

As to independent claim 58, the Official Action offers Figures 1 and 3 of LIN as teaching an electromagnetic coupling of a wireless transmission means (radio frequency) of an object (60-1 to 60-5, Fig. 3) with a first of a plurality of fixed antennae (11, Fig. 1) associated with the receiver module (10, Fig. 1).

Applicant respectfully disagrees. LIN teaches a coupling of wireless transmission means (19-1 to 19-5, Fig. 3)

of a plurality of objects (60-1 to 60-5, Fig. 3) with a receiving antenna 42 associated with an RFID circuit 40 (Fig. 3). A storage compartment 50 in an inventory storage space contains a plurality of objects (60-1 to 60-5), each object having an object circuit 10 (in accordance with Figure 1) associated therewith, wherein each object circuit 10 has a transmitting antenna 19, illustrated in plural as elements (19-1 to 19-5) in Figure 3, and each object circuit 10 further has a receiving antenna 11 (paragraphs [0017], [0022]).

LIN provides no disclosure, either in the specification or the drawing figures, of an electromagnetic coupling between the transmission means 19 of an object circuit 10 and a receiving means 11 of the object circuit 10. On the contrary, LIN teaches an electromagnetic coupling between a plurality of system transmitter coils 22a-22c and the receiving antennas 11 of a plurality of objects (60-1 to 60-5), and an electromagnetic coupling between the transmitting antennas (19-1 to 19-5) of the objects (60-1 to 60-5) and receiving antenna 42 as associated with a storage compartment 50 (paragraph [0023]).

The Official Action also asserts that LIN teaches switching (frequency selector 12, Fig. 1), in an analogue manner, between each of the fixed antennae (19-1 through 19-5, Fig. 3) and a secondary fixed antenna (19, Fig. 1) common to all of the fixed antennae (19-1 through 19-5, Fig. 3) such

that the common secondary fixed antenna (19, Fig. 1) is electrically coupled to each of the fixed antennae (19-1 through 19-5, Fig. 3) of each receiver module (10, Fig. 1) in succession.

Respectfully, this also is not correct. LIN makes no teaching of a selector, either as a frequency selector 12 (Figure 1) or as a transmission switch 70 (Figure 5), in any way associated with the object transmission antennae (19-1 through 19-5) and any another object transmission antenna 19 (or antennae (19-1 through 19-5), or, for that matter, with any other element.

On the contrary, transmission switch 70 acts between an electromagnetic connection between the output 21 of RF Generator 20 and output nodes (72-a through 72-n) connected to different system transmitter coils 22 of a given storage compartment (Figure 3-5; paragraph [0026]). Frequency selector unit 12, for each object circuit 10, couples a rectifier 13 with the receiving antenna 11 (Figure 1, paragraph [0017]). There is no disclosure, in any of the specification or the drawing figures, associating a switch of any kind with the transmitter antenna 19.

It is further respectfully submitted that a transmitter antenna 19 of an object circuit 10, as offered by the Official Action, is not and cannot be a common secondary fixed antenna electrically connected to each of antennae (19-1

through 19-5) because transmitter antenna 19 and transmitter antennae (19-1 through 19-5) refer to the same element. No single transmitter antenna 19 is common to all the objects (60-1 to 60-5), nor is any single transmitter antenna 19 connected in any way to an other object's transmitter antenna (19-1 to 19-5). Nor is there any disclosure of any one of the transmitter antennae (19-1 to 19-5) in electromagnetic communication with another of the transmitter antennae (19-1 through 19-5), or with any other element for that matter, excepting only for the primary fixed antenna 42.

In addition, LIN teaches only frequency switching between antennas 19-1 to 19-5, each working at a different frequency. In operation, to locate a particular inventory object 60, system computer 30 activates generator 20, specifying the carrier frequency for that class of object and the unique identifier for the object being sought (paragraph [0026]), where each object 60-1 through 60-5 has an object circuit 10 associated therewith, and each object circuit having a transmitting antenna 19-1 through 19-5 (paragraph [0022]). Hence, no switching between a common secondary fixed antenna and a plurality of fixed antennas, as recited, is disclosed by LIN.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 58 is not anticipated by LIN. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted

that claim 58 is patentable over LIN, and that claims depending from claim 58 are patentable over LIN at least for depending from a patentable parent claim.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 58 under section 102 are respectfully requested.

As to independent claim 64, the Official Action asserts that LIN discloses an analogue switching means (frequency selector 12 of Figure 1) for selectively electrically connecting one antenna among the plurality of fixed antennae (19-1 to 19-5, Figure 3) to a common secondary fixed antenna 19 (Figure 1), a primary fixed antenna 42 (Figure 1) electromagnetically coupled to a secondary fixed antenna 19 (Figure 1).

Applicant respectfully disagrees, and submits that LIN fails to disclose at least these features. As set forth above as to claim 58, LIN makes no teaching of a selector, either as a frequency selector 12 (Figure 1) or a transmission switch 70 (Figure 5), in any way associated with the object transmission antennae (19-1 through 19-5) and either of another object transmission antenna 19 or any other element, and further, transmitter antenna 19 is not and cannot be a common secondary fixed antenna electrically coupled to each of antennae (19-1 through 19-5) as transmitter antenna 19 and transmitter antennae (19-1 through 19-5) are effectively the same element.

Thus, for at least the aforementioned reasons, it is respectfully submitted that LIN does not anticipate claim 64. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 64, and claims depending therefrom, are patentable over LIN.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 64 under section 102 are respectfully requested.

As to independent claim 70, the Official Action asserts that LIN teaches means for selectively blocking/locking (switching) an object and means for controlling the selective blocking/locking (switching) means.

However, the Official Action does not identify the elements of the object circuit anticipating the blocking/locking means and the controlling means with specificity. Even if the Official Action intends to identify the frequency selector 12, the Official Action does not identify a functionality of the frequency selector 12 performing the recited functions.

Accordingly, it is submitted that should this rejection not be withdrawn, Applicant respectfully requests, in the interests of the principles of compact prosecution laid out in the MPEP, specific and express identification on the record of each element or passage in the cited reference believed to satisfy each claim recitation. It is respectfully submitted that this is necessary at least to afford the

Applicant an opportunity to understand and respond to the rejection.

The Official Action further asserts, with respect to independent claim 70, that LIN teaches means for selectively electrically connecting one antenna (11, Fig. 1) among the plurality of fixed antennae (19-1 to 19-5, Fig. 3) to a common secondary fixed antenna (19, Fig. 1).

Applicant respectfully disagrees, and submits that LIN fails to disclose at least these features. On the contrary, LIN teaches each object circuit 10 having one transmitter antenna 19 and one receiving antenna 11 (Figure 1; paragraph [0017]). LIN further teaches (e.g., in Figure 3), a plurality of objects (60-1 to 60-5) each having an object circuit 10, wherein the transmitter antennae 19 of the object circuits 10 of the plurality of objects (60-1 to 60-5) are represented as elements (19-1 to 19-5) (see paragraph [0022]). LIN makes no disclosure, in the specification or the drawing figures, of any connection between any of fixed antennae (19-1 to 19-5) with another of fixed antennae (19-1 to 19-5), nor is there any teaching that any one of fixed antennae (19-1 to 19-5) is common to any other object circuit 10, or any other element of the reference.

Further, it is not understood how the antenna 11 of Figure 1 is "among the plurality of fixed antennae (19-1 to 19-5, Fig. 3)," as asserted by the Official Action. At best,

the frequency selector 12 and microprocessor 15 exert an influence an indirect electrical connection between the receiving antenna 11 and the transmitting antenna 19 (see Figure 1), but LIN discloses no connection at all between a receiving antenna 11 of one object circuit 10 and a transmitting antenna 19 of another object circuit 10. It therefore follows that LIN makes no teaching or suggestion of a means for selectively electrically connecting the receiving antenna 11 and any of a plurality of transmitting antennae (19-1 to 19-5).

Accordingly, for at least the aforementioned reasons, it is respectfully submitted that LIN does not anticipate claim 70. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 70, and claims depending therefrom, are patentable over LIN.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 70 under section 102 are respectfully requested.

Rejections under Section 103

The Official Action rejected claims 72-74 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over LIN and further in view of Goto et al. (US 5,982,295; "GOTO").

The Official Action rejected claims 75 and 78-80 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over LIN and further in view of Maloney (US 6,707,381; "MALONEY").

The Official Action rejected claims 81-84 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over LIN and further in view of Ogura et al. (US Pub. 2003/0033175; "OGURA").

The rejections are respectfully traversed for at least the reasons that follow.

As to claims 72-74, the Official Action offers LIN as teaching a structure as required by claim 70, except that the Official Action concedes that LIN does not teach a housing arranged to receive a mechanical coupling part of a key or key ring, as required by claim 72.

The Official Action offers GOTO as satisfying the recitations of claims 72-74. GOTO discloses an anti-theft device for use in a vehicle or the like.

However, as set forth above as to the rejection under section 102, LIN fails to teach the features required by claim 70. Therefore, even if one skilled in the art were to contemplate modifying LIN with GOTO as suggested, the resulting modification would still fail to teach or suggest each and every feature recited in claims 72-74.

As to claims 75 and 78-80, the Official Action asserts that LIN teaches the features as applied to claims 58 and 70, but concedes that LIN does not teach a group of modules configured to store weapons in a secure manner provided with identification means and wireless transmission means as required by claim 75, wherein the wireless

transmission means is configured for the management of keys or bunches of keys in a lockable cabinet as required by claim 78, wherein the wireless transmission means is configured for the management of documents in a filing cabinet as required by claim 79, and wherein the wireless transmission means is configured for the management of weapons in a weapons locker as required by claim 80.

The Official Action offers MALONEY as teaching the foregoing features of claims 75 and 78-80. MALONEY discloses an object tracking method and system.

In response, it is respectfully submitted that LIN fails to teach the features as applied to parent claims 58 and 70, as set forth above with respect to the rejection under section 102. Therefore, even if one skilled in the art were to contemplate modifying LIN with MALONEY as suggested, the resulting modification would still fail to teach or suggest each and every feature recited in claims 75 and 78-80.

As to claims 81-84, the Official Action states that LIN teaches the invention as applied to parent claim 58, except that LIN fails to teach wireless transmission means configured for the identification of a vehicle in a parking space. The Official Action offers OGURA as teaching this feature and therefore overcoming the deficiency of LIN. OGURA discloses a vehicle managing device.

In response, it is respectfully submitted that LIN fails to teach the features as applied to parent claims 58, as set forth above with respect to the rejection under section 102. Therefore, even if one skilled in the art were to contemplate modifying LIN with OGURA as suggested, the resulting modification would still fail to teach or suggest each and every feature recited in claims 81-84.

Based on the reasons above, it is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references, individually or in combination, teach or suggest all the features recited in the claims. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under section 103 are therefore respectfully requested.

From the foregoing, it will be apparent that Applicant has fully responded to the February 20, 2009 Official Action and that the claims as presented are patentable. In view of this, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims, as presented, and their early passage to issue.

In order to expedite the prosecution of this case, it is requested that the Examiner telephone the attorney for Applicant at the number set forth below if the Examiner is of the opinion that further discussion of this case would be helpful.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

/Jeremy G. Mereness/
Jeremy G. Mereness, Reg. No. 63,422
209 Madison Street
Suite 500
Alexandria, VA 22314
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

JGM/fb